

Library Science

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SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

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Support for Libraries

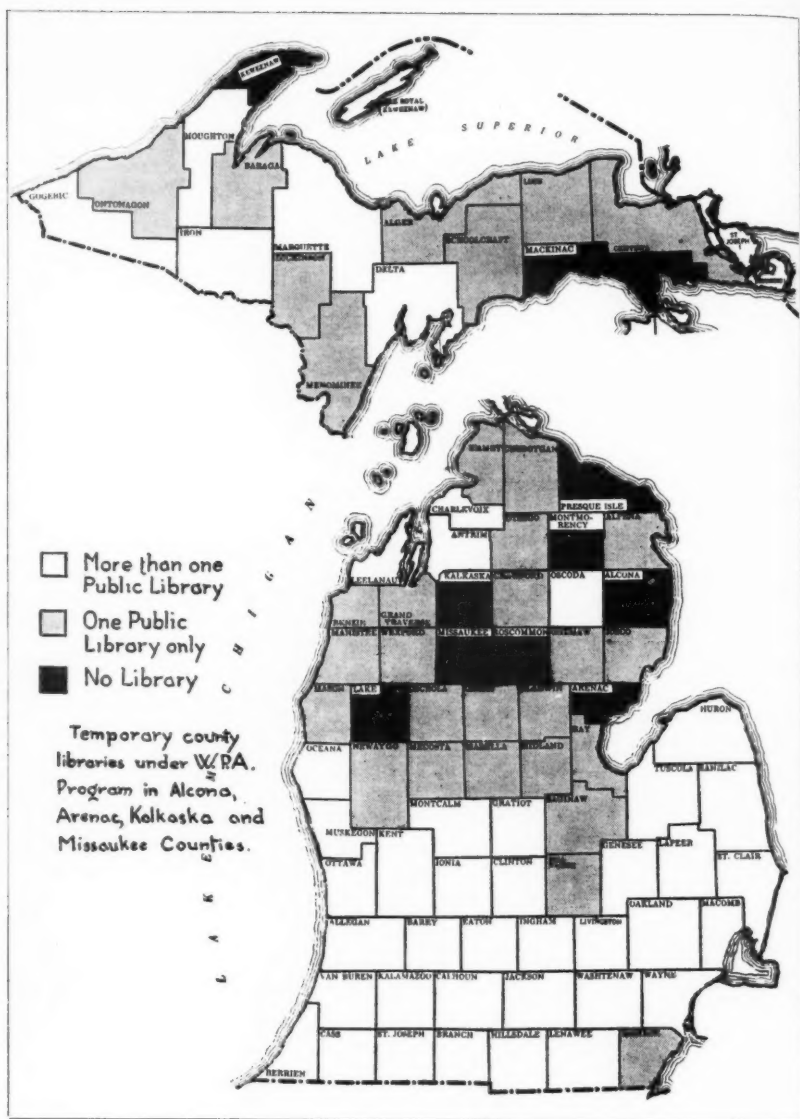
IT GIVES me great pleasure to send to the librarians of the State of Michigan greetings and best wishes of the American Library Association.

Education is a responsibility of the state, and libraries as educational agencies have long been recognized as essential for supplementing the formal school program.

The foundation for state support has been laid by the example and the experience in many states during the past years. The trend for the coming years will be to emphasize the need for liberal state-aid grants to supplement inadequate local funds and to insist on the importance of leadership from a state library center, a library extension agency, or library commission. Such leadership would influence library development and improvement in many ways especially by showing the advantages of library service on the larger unit of the county or regional area.

MALCOLM G. WYER,

President, American Library Association



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EDITORIALS

A State Board For Libraries

THERE is now under consideration by the Senate Committee on State Affairs of the Michigan Legislature a bill to create a State Board for Libraries, sponsored by the Michigan Library Association and introduced in the Senate, together with the State Aid bill, on February 18.

The bill is the result of an acknowledged need for the state's responsibility for adequate library service for all its inhabitants. The State Association's earlier approval of the principles of state aid for libraries, voluntary certification of librarians, and other matters of state-wide significance gives urgency to the establishment of a strong, centralized library agency.

Briefly, the bill proposing to create a State Board for Libraries provides for the appointment by the Governor of a five-member board with overlapping terms of office; for the Board's control and supervision of the State Library; appointment of the state librarian; administration of standards for certification of libraries and librarians; inspection of libraries established under any legislative provision for state aid; administrative responsibility for the establishment of regional libraries; development of state-wide school library service; and for various advisory services.

Before drafting the proposed legislation which was approved by the Association, the sub-committee considered its provisions with respect to their authority in law, their relation to other state library legislation, their effectiveness under present conditions, their adaptability to a program for library development in the state through long time planning, their recognition of the need for continuity of policy, and the desirability of freedom from partisan political influence.

If a state library agency is to function competently it should have vigorous leadership, broad administrative power in the promotion of state-wide library service and should uphold recognized standards in such service. It is intended that the bill to establish a State Board for Libraries in Michigan should provide standing and security for efforts on behalf of library service throughout the state. Control of operation in local units is not implied, whether these are organized under a state legislative act or are receiving support from a state appropriation. The function of the State Board for Libraries is limited in such cases to responsibility for insuring that the intent of legislative provisions is met.

The present bill was necessarily encumbered by references to previous legislation since administrative responsibility had been variously provided for and needed to be brought within the scope of this bill. As the possibilities for library service increase, it will be highly desirable to combine all standing, operative, library legislation in one legislative act.

By the State Aid bill specific provision is made for extending library facilities and the bill creating a State Board for Libraries should give authority and stability to all efforts toward general library development in the state. It is important that these bills be approved at the same time and prompt expression of support is again urged upon every librarian in the state.

Membership of the sub-committee drafting the bill for a State Board for Libraries was Arthur O. Cook, Aniela Poray, William Webb, Jessie E. Tompkins, Chairman.

JESSIE E. TOMPKINS

State Aid For Michigan Libraries

of them live in the rural districts.

The map on page 2 shows graphically the "thin line" of Michigan's library service. In the lower counties, for instance, which are the best served, having as the map indicates more than one library per county, 41% of the people (omitting Wayne County) have no access to free library service. In the middle tier 63% of the people are in the same position and in the upper counties 48% lack free book service of any kind. Ten counties, one city of 25,000, and four smaller cities in Michigan cannot boast a single library within their boundaries, and many small libraries, supported by microscopic tax levies can provide only meager service. Michigan spends but 38 cents per capita for libraries, although the minimum national standard is one dollar per capita, and Massachusetts, a close rival in population if not in area, tops this figure and spends one dollar and eight cents.

The framers of the ordinance of 1787 ordained that "schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged" and there has never been, in Michigan, any disposition to deny the importance of education and educational opportunities. But the question of equalizing educational opportunities is only beginning to be studied. Is it fair that more than a million citizens who live in rural Michigan should be denied the advantages that come from access to books because they do not live in communities that can afford libraries? Is not the promotion of intelligence and understanding a government function of supreme importance? With people constantly shifting from farm to city and city to farm, is it not of vital concern to citizens of both localities that equal educational facilities including public libraries as well as schools, be provided?

But, at a time when there is greater need than ever before to keep citizens informed of social and economic trends, and to provide youth with the inspiration to achievement that comes from books, many libraries find their book stocks and their book funds alike well nigh depleted. Tax delinquencies and the tax limitation amendment together with the decline in assessed valuation of real estate, have all but emptied local coffers, while the shifting incidence of taxation adds to the problem by allocating other possible sources of revenue to the state. Extension of library service to unserved areas, even the maintenance of existing service in many localities, seem extremely problematical, and the only sensible solution of the difficulty calls for state grants-in-aid through which a coordinated, state-wide system can be developed.

The Michigan State Legislature now has before it a bill calling for such state aid, which should have the active support of every Michigan educator whether he be teacher or librarian. The bill aims to equalize public library service throughout Michigan, 15% of the grant being designated as an equalization fund; to encourage local support for libraries; and through the establishment of regional libraries to develop more effective and economical units for the public distribution of books. By enlisting the interest of your senator and representatives and above all, by demonstrating to each and every citizen that by joining in this effort, he, as a beneficiary of the library in the past, can become its benefactor in the present, you can make sure that the public opinion necessary to the bill's passage will be secured.

GRACE A. ENGLAND

"45,130,098 Americans haven't read any good books lately if they had to get them from public libraries," says *The Survey*. Of this great number, 1,180,895 live in Michigan, and all but 40 thousand

Planning And Legislation For Michigan Libraries

THE first report of the Planning Committee of the Michigan Library Association, submitted in October, 1935, set forth in general terms the need for planning. It indicated the present extent of library service, the resources and support of libraries, and what these should be to meet the accepted minimum standards. State aid and the development of a strong state agency were suggested then as necessary to attain this end.

Senate bills 125 and 126, referred to as the State Aid Bill and the State Board for Libraries Bill, are the initial steps in a program to provide good library service for all the residents of Michigan. These bills supplement each other since one provides funds and the other creates a body which would be responsible for state development of libraries. If this legislation passes as proposed, not only would immediate benefits result, but an adequate state-wide plan of library service would be in the making for the next ten years.

What would be some of the direct effects of this legislation?

1. In place of the \$1,900,000 spent by libraries in 1934-35, \$3,150,000 would be available. This means an average per capita expenditure of sixty-three cents in place of thirty-eight cents.

2. During the next ten years special attention would be given, through an Equalization Fund, to unserved populations, especially in areas shown on the map on page two by black or shaded markings. The proposed state board would administer such a fund and be responsible for the establishment of regional libraries created to serve such areas. At the same time, the Board would be in a position to aid established libraries which might be unusually handicapped by peculiar local conditions.

3. The General Fund would be used for the benefit of the existing and newly established libraries and for the next three years all tax supported public libraries would receive an amount equal to about twenty-five cents per capita if present local funds are not decreased in that time.

4. After three years the local support of each library would have to equal at least $\frac{3}{10}$ of a mill of the equalized assessed evaluation of its district to be eligible to a grant from the General Fund. If libraries now receiving more than the prescribed minimum continue to do so; and if all areas now below that minimum make provision for a minimum requirement, total appropriations, including aid from the state, would be brought to \$3,415,000. This would mean a per capita expenditure of seventy cents.

5. Another provision operative after three years would give further impetus to development of county and regional plans, since very small libraries receiving less than \$6,000 from all sources including the state, would receive this grant only by becoming the central library for a larger area or by joining with some other library or libraries. It is assumed that the Board will be in a position at that time to give advice and aid to such libraries, so that the best possible arrangements can be made for good service in these areas. It will have to be remembered that grants from the

Equalization Fund will be available for libraries whose local conditions make it impossible to comply with the last mentioned provisions.

6. Not only will there be more libraries and more books in all libraries, but there should be larger and better staffs. The State Board will be empowered to set up standards for the certification of librarians. It is recognized and understood that anyone holding a position at the time of certification would be certified for this position, but these standards would apply to all newcomers in the field. Certification is not a part of these bills, however. A committee is at work setting up standards for a voluntary scheme which will be presented at the annual fall meeting.

7. Apart from its responsibility for regional development which comes with the control of the Equalization Fund, the Board will be responsible for the administration of the State Library and the appointment of the State Librarian. This should lead to arrangements which would make the State Library an integral part of a state-wide plan, and furthermore, it should mean a strong central agency providing leadership, encouragement, and assistance to the various kinds of libraries in the state. Control of local operations is not implied in either bill.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE,
MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Seek State Aid in Twelve States in 1937*

AT least a dozen state library associations are working on legislative programs for securing state grants for library development, according to word received at A. L. A. Headquarters. Some of these plans are still in an early stage, others have been in the making for many months but are subject to last minute changes after consultation with legislative leaders.

State aid and other legislative measures growing out of state library planning were discussed at an open meeting of the Library Extension Board December 28, during the Midwinter Conference. The Board has set state aid as the first of its objectives for the year. Two of its members are working for state aid in their own states—Mary U. Rothrock in Tennessee and J. O. Modisette in Louisiana, where the legislature last summer appropriated \$200,000 for state grants for school libraries, but nothing for public libraries, though it increased very appreciably the appropriation for the state library commission. The staff of the Public Library Division is serving as a clearing house of information. An A. L. A. leaflet, *Libraries Need State Aid*, has just been published, primarily for use with national citizen groups (to supplement *The Equal Chance*), but also as a possible aid to state leaders while their own printed matter is in preparation. State aid proposals, at this writing, are:

Arkansas. Appropriation of \$50,000 per year, for state aid for books for large unit libraries and for the work of the state library commission.

Idaho. Appropriation of \$50,000 for the biennium for the free traveling library commission instead of \$11,000, to cover its usual activities and a beginning of the development of regional branches.

Illinois. State aid of at least \$500,000 for the biennium; half to be distributed to existing libraries on the basis of population and half for service to new areas

*Reprinted from the Bulletin of the American Library Association, January, 1937.

through contracts with existing libraries or through county and regional libraries; to be disbursed through the state library extension division. Plan as adopted October, 1936. Legislative plans under it not yet fully determined.

Indiana. A bill for permanent annual appropriation for aid to existing libraries amounting to one-sixth of what was spent the previous year (for 1937 this would be \$250,000) to be appropriated probably from gross income tax.

Iowa. State aid to replenish book stocks depleted during the depression was adopted as an objective by the state association. It now seems doubtful whether an appropriation will be sought in 1937.

Michigan. State association is committed to effort to secure state aid and a legislative committee is working on a plan and a bill.

North Carolina. Plans are being made to ask for state aid for complete system of regional libraries. The amount requested may be \$150,000 for each year of the biennium.

Ohio. State aid of \$200,000 for the biennium. The bill to be based on that of 1935, distribution to be made by the state library at its discretion. This distribution at present is planned (1) to continue large grants to one library per county, this library to aid weaker libraries in the county or extend service to rural areas; (2) for smaller direct grants to other libraries whose standards justify it.

Tennessee. As part of the state planning commission's legislative program for education, \$300,000 will be requested for the biennium for libraries—\$140,000 for regional libraries, \$100,000 for school libraries, and \$60,000 for state agency functions.

Texas. State aid of \$750,000 for the biennium, to strengthen the extension work of the state library and to develop ten district libraries which would aid existing libraries and give service to localities now without it.

Vermont. State aid included in legislative program of Better Libraries Movement of Vermont. Amount to be requested still to be determined.

West Virginia. State aid and first appropriation for state library commission are proposed. Details not yet known.

Washington. State aid amounting to \$800,000 for the biennium, for existing libraries and for development of county and regional libraries, to be spent for books, periodicals, and binding.

STATE AGENCY LEGISLATION

In the field of legislation and appropriations for state library extension agencies, a number of projects have been reported.

Change of legal organization is proposed in two states—consolidation of the Iowa Library Commission and the general department of the Iowa State Library, and creation of a library board for the Michigan State Library.

Increased powers will be recommended for the Texas State Library, especially in relation to administration of district libraries.

First appropriations will be sought for the Arkansas Library Commission, re-established in 1935, and the West Virginia Library Commission, established in 1929.

Increased or special appropriations are the goal in several states. Funds to make field work possible (salaries, travel, etc.) will be sought in Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri. The Oregon State Library will request \$500,000 for a building. In Washington a budget to cover an effective program for the state library has been submitted.

J. W. MERRILL

A. L. A. Midwinter Conference

SOME three or four hundred members of the association were present for this conference at the Drake Hotel in Chicago, December 28-30, nearly all of them either administrators, or members of the various committees which one sensed were doing a great deal of work in their many meetings only a few of which were open ones.

The Annuities and Pensions Committee had an open meeting on Monday evening at which Mr. Dooley of the A. L. A. staff set forth in detail the workings of the A. L. A. retirement plan, and several speakers from different states told of the advantages of this plan over the rates of insurance companies prevailing in their communities. About 100 people were present, most of them administrators interested in carrying back to their staffs information about the retirement plan and the advisability of joining it before the present rates expire in the spring of 1938.

There were also meetings not of the regularly organized sections of the A. L. A. but of informal groups gathered together to discuss topics of common interest, such as a meeting of College Librarians of the Middle West and one of University and Reference Librarians at which Harris Fletcher of the University of Illinois made a plea for better facilities for the serious reading of undergraduate students; Frank K. Walter of the University of Minnesota Library reminisced about his experiences in reference work; Robert A. Miller of the University of Nebraska Library made an analysis of cataloging costs and Keyes D. Metcalf of the New York Public Library gave a practical talk on "The Care and Cataloging of Micro Films in Libraries."

This up-to-the-minute topic of microphotography had also a whole meeting devoted to it at which Dr. Raney and Herman Fussler of the University of Chicago carried on a conversation demonstrating the equipment and its use.

There were two well attended open meetings of the Council. At the first Mr. Roden presented the report of the Committee on Racial Discrimination—a report planned to avoid embarrassing instances of discrimination against negro members of the A. L. A. at future conferences—which was accepted by the Council without discussion. A conversation between two members of the Committee on Salaries, Staff and Service, Paul North Rice of New York University Libraries and Lucy L. Morgan of the Detroit Public Library, brought forth a good deal of discussion and comment on the best methods of raising library salaries. Dr. Wilson, chairman of the Library Extension Board summarized the progress of legislative programs of state planning boards.

The second Council meeting was given over to a discussion of Federal Relations. John W. Studebaker, U. S. Commissioner of Education, fortunately in Chicago, explained the present status of the proposed federal library agency and the difficulties of getting it set up, and Dr. Joeckel and Mr. Spaulding of the Federal Relations Committee gave an illuminating discussion of federal aid.

The Trustees Section held a meeting which, after much lively discussion of State Aid for libraries, centering about the question of how much state control would be involved, ended in the section sending a resolution in favor of state aid to the Council.

MARION R. SERVICE

Michigan's Financial Condition Related to State Aid for Libraries

By IONE M. DORITY

IS money available for state aid to libraries in Michigan, if the need is demonstrated and legislative support assured? The reports of the State Administrative Board say "yes." State receipts nearly doubled from 1933 to 1936.

TABLE I
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, STATE OF MICHIGAN
JULY 1, 1933 -- JUNE 30, 1936

	1933	1934	1935	1936
Receipts . . .	\$ 92,186,202.65	\$151,380,882.28	\$203,582,534.82	\$192,823,044.83
Disbursements	106,158,734.34	148,863,204.60	199,264,957.61	187,229,000.27

SOURCE: State Administrative Board. The decline in 1936 receipts is due mainly to a decrease in federal aid for relief purposes.

Will the increase in state revenues continue in 1937? There is every indication that it will. The proceeds from the principal sources of Michigan state taxes fluctuate according to business conditions, and the continuing upturn in business points to a corresponding increase in state revenues. Table II indicates the principal taxes in Michigan and the income derived from them.

It should be noted that the state has received no income from the property tax since 1935, except that derived from delinquent taxes. Total state receipts, shown in Table II, include United States government aid, returns of loans and advances, and other miscellaneous revenue not considered to be a tax, license or fee. Excluding federal aid, the income for the state arises chiefly from the six taxes named in the table. These taxes are consumer taxes, and increasing prosperity is bound to produce a rise in state income from these sources. The fiscal year for 1936 ended on June 30, 1936. The continued business increase since then practically assures an increase in state receipts from taxes for the ensuing fiscal period.

What are the principal expenditures of the state and what services now benefit by state grants-in-aid or state-collected locally-shared taxes? In Table III we note that education, welfare, and relief, benefit chiefly from the former and highways from the latter.

Where will the increased state funds go? Among the many agencies clamoring for funds, how loudly can libraries speak, and how effectively? Money for state aid to libraries in Michigan should be available, providing no unforeseen contingency arises. It is now necessary to demonstrate the need and obtain legislative support for this aid.

TABLE II
RECEIPTS FROM CERTAIN STATE TAXES
AND
THEIR RELATION TO TOTAL STATE TAXES, LICENSES AND FEES AND TO TOTAL STATE RECEIPTS

PRINCIPAL TAXES	1933		1934		1935		1936	
	Amt.	%	Amt.	%	Amt.	%	Amt.	%
General Property tax . .	\$ 11,546,667.64	16.8	\$ 8,336,211.78	8.3	10,932,983.97	9.8	\$ 2,730,885.63	2.2
Public Utilities . . .	7,647,177.55	11.1	10,290,910.31	10.2	9,376,047.54	8.4	9,898,369.49	7.8
Corporation tax . . .	5,709,586.83	8.3	4,795,754.42	4.7	4,791,060.87	4.3	4,924,060.99	3.9
Sales tax			31,361,224.13	31.0	38,660,653.05	34.7	45,642,218.55	36.1
Gasoline tax	19,378,226.78	28.1	20,272,486.77	20.1	21,494,244.13	19.3	23,808,824.26	18.8
Automobile weight tax .	14,129,405.37	20.5	15,741,210.53	15.6	15,526,190.83	13.9	17,452,563.57	13.8
TOTAL	\$ 58,411,064.17	84.8	90,797,797.94	89.9	\$ 100,781,180.39	90.4	\$ 104,456,922.49	82.6
Total state taxes, licenses and fees	\$ 68,933,333.26	100.0	\$ 101,029,076.95	100.0	\$ 111,559,064.10	100.0	\$ 126,502,754.52	100.0
Total state receipts . .	\$ 92,186,202.65		\$ 151,380,882.28		\$ 203,582,534.82		\$ 192,823,044.33	

Source: *Recent Developments in the Michigan State Tax Situation*, by Robert S. Ford, Bureau of Government,
University of Michigan, New Series Bulletin No. 4, 1936

TABLE III
PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

	1933	1934	1935	1936
<u>Governmental Cost Payments</u>				
Highways	\$ 23,825,176.35	\$ 17,581,195.39	\$ 23,784,143.17	\$ 27,693,546.85
Education	10,079,709.25	7,225,014.07	8,745,487.90	8,330,986.13
Charities, Hospitals and Corrections	8,517,907.85	7,997,374.07	8,856,264.79	8,946,306.83
<u>Non-Governmental Cost Payments</u>				
<u>Grants-in-Aid</u>				
Education	22,237,333.02	24,541,922.92	27,007,566.68	35,988,710.50
Highways	9,642.94			
<u>Welfare and Relief</u>				
State				
Federal	5,333,132.40	10,964,008.87	11,975,326.95	10,602,382.07
Misc. Welfare		29,270,793.73	60,885,081.00	19,023,398.29
Total welfare	5,333,132.40	40,234,802.60	73,244,245.24	3,174,890.82
Other Grants-in-Aid	531,685.90	476,384.84	305,799.06	32,800,671.18
TOTAL GRANTS-IN-AID	28,111,794.26	65,253,110.36	100,557,610.98	72,257.77
State-Collected Locally-shared Taxes				68,861,639.45
Highway	7,592,413.40	21,508,537.10	27,653,349.18	24,195,680.31
Other	63,574.06	1,042,418.72	152,141.57	1,969,736.55
TOTAL	7,655,987.46	22,550,955.82	27,805,490.75	26,165,416.86
GRAND TOTAL	78,190,575.17	120,607,649.71	169,748,997.59	139,997,878.12

SOURCE: Bureau of Government, University of Michigan.

Library Service to Young People in Detroit

DETROIT school and public librarians have recently been honored by an official visit of two members of the newly established School and Children's Division of the American Library Association. Miss Jessie Gay Van Cleve, Chief of the Division, and Miss Mildred Batchelder, School Library Specialist, devoted the entire week of February eighth to the Detroit visit.

The purpose of this visit was, primarily, to gain first-hand knowledge of the service of libraries to children and young people, through the public schools and public libraries of Detroit.

In order to acquire this intimate knowledge of library service to children and young people it was thought advisable to visit the libraries in the public schools and children's departments in the Public Library, and to supplement these visits with conferences and discussions with experienced librarians, teachers, school principals and supervisors, who could bring to the discussion various viewpoints and attitudes toward library service.

Two days were devoted to the school visits and conferences, the schedule being planned by the Supervisor of School Libraries for the Board of Education, and two days to visiting and conferring with branch librarians as planned by the Chief of the Children's Division of the Detroit Public Library. The last day of the week was spent in joint conferences of school librarians and children's librarians discussing such subjects as: (1) How is school and public library service coordinated? (2) What are school library objectives and what are public library objectives? (3) What is the librarian's responsibility in teaching reading? (4) How far are librarians able to go in creating an appreciation of fine writing?

Many important phases of school library administration were discussed in conference after observing activities carried on in elementary (platoon), intermediate, and high school libraries in several different districts of Detroit. Such questions as the following loomed up as important from the point of view of the Department at A. L. A.: (1) What age is being reached most adequately? (2) At what age does the use of libraries drop? Why? Are there remedies? (3) What efforts are made by libraries to extend the reading interest of those limited in reading ability? (4) How adequately are we educating young people to understand and need library service and to know what their responsibilities for its provision are in any community in which they may live? (5) What positive efforts are made in work with children and young people to train for the type of adult education program promoted by the public library or other educational agencies? (6) How well do library book collections meet needs and demands? (7) What services are provided to meet special needs, as: guidance in children's reading through parent education, introduction of new book material to teachers, vacation reading, etc.? (8) How essential is the library in the program for teaching reading?

During the period of observation in the several school libraries selected it was interesting to note the factors which seem to vitally contribute toward the success of an efficiently organized library. Some of these were: (1) The physical plan

(Continued on Page 20)

State Executive Board of School Librarians

THE State Executive Board of School Librarians met at the State Library in Lansing on February 20, 1937. Meeting with the Board for the first time was Dr. Harlan C. Koch, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Coöperation with Educational Institutions, its newly appointed educational adviser.

Reports were given on the progress of the *Michigan Librarian* and satisfaction expressed by various members of the Board over the contents and improved appearance of the December issue. A resolution supporting the editorial policies of the magazine was passed including within it the Executive Board's strong approval of using the *Michigan Librarian* as a publicity agent for state library aid and certification during the present campaign of the Michigan Library Association.

Since the last meeting of the Board a list of nearly twenty-five suggestions for programs in school library section meetings of the Michigan Education Association and the Michigan Library Association had been compiled; and it was voted to send a copy of this list to the various section chairmen in the state.

Dr. Koch, as one of the high school inspectors of the state, feels very strongly the need of higher standards for school libraries. Various possibilities were discussed, and as one means toward raising such standards, a resolution was passed recommending the establishment at the University of Michigan of courses in library service to schools, adapted to the needs of those who qualify as school librarians under the Teachers' Certification Code.

The next meeting of the Board was set for April 30, 1937, in Ann Arbor, following the meeting of the library section of Schoolmasters' Club.

MIRIAM HERRON, *Chairman*

Library Conference

Schoolmasters' Club

Ann Arbor

Friday, April 30, 1937

MISS ANNETTE P. WARD of Alma College, Chairman of the Conference, announces the following program:

1. A joint luncheon with the English Conference at 12:15 at the Michigan League.

2. Program at 2 p. m. in Room 110 of the General Library. George E. Carrothers, Director of the Bureau of Coöperation with Educational Institutions, U. of M., and Rev. Albert J. Anthony of the Alma Presbyterian Church will be the speakers. Miriam Herron will report the work of the State Executive Board of School Librarians.

Michigan Library Association

Section Officers for 1937

MICHIGAN REGIONAL GROUP OF
CATALOGERS

Chairman—Margaret Mann, Library Science Dept., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Secretary—Marjorie Brody, Public Library, Lansing.

REFERENCE SECTION

Chairman—Jeanne Griffin, Public Library, Kalamazoo.

Secretary—Miss Cameron, Public Library, Battle Creek.

SCHOOL LIBRARY SECTION

Chairman—C. Irene Hayner, University High School Library, Ann Arbor.

Secretary—Ruth Irwin, Junior College Library, Highland Park.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIANS' SECTION

Chairman—Mabel Moore, Hackley Public Library, Muskegon.

Secretary-Treasurer—Ruth Poucher, Public Library, Flint.

HOSPITAL LIBRARIANS

Chairman—Eleanor Ricker, Public Library, Kalamazoo.

Citizens' Conference On Education

ON FEBRUARY 2, 1937, there was held at Lansing the first Citizens' Conference on Education, called by Dr. Eugene B. Elliott, State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Representatives were there from city boards of education, the American Association of University Women, The Women's Club of Michigan, the state Parent Teachers' Association, the League of Women Voters, the Grange, county superintendents of schools, the State Legislature, Michigan Library Association, labor groups, and other bodies interested in the improvement of education in the state.

At the general session in the morning, Superintendent Elliott, Harold C. Hunt, Supt. of Schools at Kalamazoo, Chester C. Miller, Supt. of Schools at Saginaw, and Dean J. B. Edmonson of the University of Michigan School of Education addressed the conference, pointing out the needs of education at the present time. In the afternoon, group meetings were held at which practical suggestions for meeting these needs were made and reported back to a general meeting at the close of the afternoon.

Summaries of the discussions at the various group meetings have been distributed to the delegates. It is hoped that similar conferences may be held in local communities throughout the state under their leadership. Libraries and librarians were mentioned as having a very definite place in the organization and development of educational facilities for out-of-school youth and adults who have not yet learned how to use leisure time to advantage.

THE Membership Committee wishes to report that the Michigan Library Association has over 700 paid members to date. Three libraries, Lansing, Battle Creek, and Royal Oak boast 100 per cent membership.

DOROTHY DOWSETT, Chairman.

Necrology

JUDITH ANNE RANCK

1868-1936

MRS. SAMUEL H. RANCK, wife of the Librarian of the Grand Rapids Public Library, died in Blodgett Memorial Hospital after a few days illness, on December 4, 1936.

Judith Anne Blackburn was born in Baltimore, December 23, 1868, of Quaker parents.

She was educated in the Friends Elementary and High School, Baltimore, and in 1887 began her work in the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore where for six years she worked in the circulation department, and as Secretary to the Librarian in charge of book order work.

She was graduated from Wellesley College in 1897 and for many years was secretary of her class alumnae group.

On October 15, 1901, she married Mr. Ranck, then assistant librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. They moved to Grand Rapids when he became Librarian of the Grand Rapids Public Library on October 1, 1904.

Mrs. Ranck never lost her interest in libraries and books and was especially interested in books for and about children. At the Muskegon meeting of the M. L. A. in 1913 she gave an address on "Books on the Care of Babies," (*Library Journal*, 38:600-602). She was well known to Michigan librarians through her attendance at the conferences on Children's Reading in Grand Rapids, and meetings of the American Library Association, and of the Michigan Library Association. She was also a member of the Historical Society of Grand Rapids, and of the Women's University Club of that city, of which she was one of the founders.

Mrs. Ranck was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Grand Rapids. She is survived by her husband, her three children—Elizabeth Powell (now Mrs. Charles E. Hodgman of Detroit), Theodore Valen-

(Continued on Page 21)

We Recommend

Small Books and Pamphlets

FOR the school and small library feeling the need for brief discussions of various subjects to fill gaps in the collection and for the larger library which can always use material having a timely and often temporary interest, the following small books and pamphlets are very useful:

"HEADLINE BOOKS," published by the Foreign Policy Association and edited by R. A. Goslin are of the type of little books which have a timely interest. Intended to provide "a balanced background against which the reader may make up his own mind on questions of the day" their treatment is impartial and nontechnical. Subject matter is indicated by the following titles: *War Tomorrow—Will We Keep Out?*, *Dictatorship, Made In U. S. A.*, *Peace and Party Platforms, Clash In the Pacific, Flags and Drums*. Print is large and there are illustrations and statistical charts. Price 35c in board covers.

"AMERICAN PRIMERS," published by University of Chicago Press with Percy Bidwell as editor is another series on subjects of current interest "designed to meet the needs of school classes, adult education courses, and workers' groups for readable materials in the social sciences." Questions at the end of the text stimulate further thought and brief bibliographies suggest further reading. Print is large, price 25c. Titles in this series are *Youth In the Depression* by Kingsley Davis, *Strikes* by Joseph Senturia, *Money* by Marc Rose and Roman Horne, *Crime* by Nathaniel Cantor, *Jobs or the Dole?* by Neal B. DeNood, *Business and Government* by John Crighton and Joseph Senturia, *Farm Business* by Roman Horne, *You and Machines* by Wm. F. Ogburn.

"LEISURE LEAGUE LITTLE BOOKS," published by the Leisure League

of America at 25c each are concerned with subjects of more lasting interest. There are nearly thirty titles to date presenting "in interesting and practical form a diversity of ideas and material pertaining to leisure time pursuits." Authors include such well known persons as Ernest Elmo Calkins and Sigmund Spaeth and sound practical instruction is given in such unusual subjects as these titles suggest: *What To Do About Your Invention, How To Design Your Own Clothes, How To Sell What You Write*. Illustrations are good and bibliographies are comprehensive, particularly in the booklet on hobbies.

"MERIT BADGE SERIES," published by Boy Scouts of America, 20c each, profess only to suggest the scope of the subjects and serve as guides, additional reading being necessary. Prepared by experts and frequently revised, these booklets answer that recurrent demand for vocational material. *Seamanship, Dairying, Poultry Keeping, Business, Conservation, Surveying*, are only a few of the titles.

"PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLETS," published by the Public Affairs Committee, Washington, D. C., at 10c each, deal with the economic and social organization of America. Unless otherwise stated each pamphlet is a summary of the studies of research agencies, the author of each pamphlet being responsible only for the selection and arrangement of material." Some of the titles in this series are: *This Question of Relief, Security or the Dole, Labor and the New Deal, Restless Americans, Credit for Consumers, The Supreme Court and the Constitution, our Government — For Spoils or Service, Income and Economic Progress*.

Professional Glances

THIS department contains notes of articles appearing in the professional magazines, announcements of new publications of interest to librarians, and of aids in library work. Our "Professional Glances" have enthusiastically noted that the question of state aid for libraries has received editorial attention in several non-professional magazines notes of which we include here.—Ed.

State Aid For Library Service

IN AT least ten states this year, public libraries will ask their state legislatures for financial aid. Is free book service to its citizens so essential that the state should aid in its support? Many citizens individually and through their state and local organizations are saying yes, and are pledging themselves to support such legislation.

In an editorial in the February, 1937, *Parents Magazine*, its editor Clara Savage Littledale, states that "one of the greatest educational institutions in this country is, of course, the public library. . . . It will be tragic if the fine impetus toward education and inspiration from books gradually diminishes because libraries lack means to satisfy it."

She points out that the real estate tax, upon which in the past public libraries have had to rely for funds, has broken down under the burden and that it is evident some other source of Revenue must come to the assistance of libraries. "Few local funds are available. Income and inheritance taxes, the tax on intangibles, and other lucrative revenues go into state and national, not local treasuries. It seems logical, then, that the library should turn to the state . . . if it is adequately to serve the millions of people who are asking for books and ultimately reach the 45 million in this country who are at present without library service of any kind."

She urges her readers to "see that your state is not left behind in this attempt to make public library service what it should be—a great free source of education for yourselves and your children."

As the *Saturday Review* for January

16, 1937, points out, with more than one third of the entire population of the United States without library service of any kind, "the situation was never one to justify pride or even comfort. But the curtailments of the last eight years have made it alarmingly worse. Services had to be cut down at the very time when the need for them enormously increased; the public, no longer able to buy books for itself, found that the libraries had to cut down their buying at a time when they ought to have been able to increase it. All over the country the stock and condition of library books declined.

"The acute crisis is over and libraries in general are now better off than they were four or five years ago, but what might almost be called a chronic crisis has succeeded it.

"While books and facilities are adequate throughout the country as a whole, actual use of existing libraries goes steadily upward. A survey of thirty-one public libraries in the larger cities showed a gain of 22 percent in the circulation of adult non-fiction during the past five years."

The *New Republic* for January 6, 1937 believes that this effectively disposes of the hackneyed charge that libraries are used principally by indolent persons seeking "escape" fiction. In the present troubled times, more people are turning to the libraries for enlightenment in the fields of science, sociology, history, etc. Yet the more books are used, the faster they wear out.

Libraries are supported by a wide variety of arrangements: public and private bequests, popular subscription, local taxation, grants from foundations and

various others. As the *New Republic* points out, "the only thing these methods have in common is the uniformity with which library income has been decreasing in recent years."

"Where supported out of public funds, most libraries derive their incomes from local real estate taxes. Deflated land values and assessments have caused tax receipts to drop sharply, while the ever increasing taxation demanded by state and federal governments makes local authorities reluctant to raise either assessments or tax rates. The most sensible solution of the difficulty is for the state governments to establish grants-in-aid to local libraries and set up co-ordinated, state-wide library systems."

The *Saturday Review* feels that both contentions are sound and that no matter how flourishing metropolitan libraries may be and however readily they may be supported from metropolitan funds, it is only by state effort that the smaller libraries can be adequately supported and library services extended to the vast village and rural populations which are now without them.

"Every citizen has a direct interest in this threat to democratic institutions and the proposed cure for it." The editor urges his readers to investigate the present crisis and to see for themselves how it effects their communities. "The crisis will appall you—which will be very good for all of us—but you will also be heartened to discover how loyally and how effectively the libraries have been serving the democratic idea under the handicap of poverty."

Together with our colleagues, the English teachers, librarians are greatly concerned about what young people do, or do not, read. The following articles in the educational press will be found interesting: "The leisure reading of New York City high school students," by Stella S. Center and Gladys L. Persons, pages 717-726, *English Journal*, November, 1936; "Poetry for children," by John Frances McDermott, pages 467-

471, *School and Society*, October 10, 1936; "Selecting literature for children: a reply to John Frances McDermott," by J. Hall Connor, pages 779-781, *School and Society*, December 12, 1936; "Remedial effects of a free reading program," by Lenore Lear Anders, pages 851-856, *English Journal*, December, 1936.

The above articles all indicate the close relation between the library and the English department. The social science correlation also comes into the picture in the two articles listed below: "Teaching the extensive use of the library to prospective social studies and English teachers," by Charles W. Sanford in *School and Society*, pages 736-737, December 5, 1936; and "Current events in the secondary school," by Catherine R. O'Meara, pages 69-72, *Social Studies*, February, 1937.

The modern library is a center of visual education material. The *Scholastic* for November 21, 1936, lists a number of educational film catalogs which give valuable information about free and rental films for teachers and librarians. The same magazine in the January 9, 1937 issue, page A-3 gives a list of magazines which feature the correlation of motion pictures and school work.

The friendly *Clearing House* for December, 1936, again pleads the cause of school libraries with an article "The school library: is it bread or cake?" by John Carr Duff. In this issue, Dr. Duff writes an open letter to administrators asking that in the school budgets the library and the librarian be allowed their rightful share as "bread and butter" of instructional method.

In the teacher's edition of the *Scholastic* for November 7, 1936 is a useful list of lectures, books, charts, texts, pamphlets, movies, plays, posters, and lantern slides which may be obtained from the anti-war groups to further peace education.

Around The State

THE Metropolitan Library Club of Detroit is happy to announce that it has secured Ford Madox Ford as speaker for its dinner meeting early in April. Any librarians outside the Metropolitan area who would be interested in attending this meeting will be very welcome. The date and place are not definitely set but information regarding reservations may be secured by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to Miss Mary Esther Grabowsky, Ferry School, 2920 E. Palmer, Detroit, Michigan.

It is hoped that all librarians of public, school and special libraries in the metropolitan area of Detroit will become members of the Metropolitan Library Club. This is only the second year of its organization but already it has done much to unite us professionally. Annual dues are only twenty-five cents and should be sent either to Miss Mary Esther Grabowsky at the above address, or to Miss Mabel West, Detroit Public Library.

MR. PAUL KNAPP of Kalamazoo, who graduated from the University of North Carolina Library School last June, recently accepted the position of librarian of the Chemistry Division of the University of Cincinnati Library. Mr. Knapp acted as a page at the Kalamazoo Public Library while he was a student at Western State Teachers College and for a short time was an assistant in the Jackson Public Library.

AN initial collection of 1500 books gathered from the departments of the high school and from the Public Library which had purchased books for high school use with School Board money was organized to form the new Mt. Pleasant

High School Library by Miss Ruth A. Eismann, Librarian.

The week after Thanksgiving was set apart as Library Week when all school activities stressed the newly equipped library. Posters; a special chapel period featuring a library radio amateur hour; a slogan contest; a scavenger hunt; a guessing contest based on costumed book characters parading at another chapel period; and a Book Bazaar established friendly relations between the library and the student body. Since Christmas instruction in library-use has been featured.

At the January meeting of the Allegan County Library Association Lenora E. Porter of Allegan, president; Thelma E. Shnively of Martin, secretary and Carrie M. French of Otsego, treasurer.

MISS EUNICE WEAD, professor in the Department of Library Science, University of Michigan, is on Sabbatical leave of absence this semester for further study of early stamped bindings in the Huntington Library and for observing reference work in various libraries in and about Los Angeles.

MISS MARY P. PARSONS, who has taught in the Department of Library Science at various times in the past, is carrying Miss Wead's courses during her leave. Miss Parsons has been working at the University of Vienna and at Oxford University since her last engagement in Ann Arbor.

MISS MARY HAMMOND, Librarian of Olivet College is on leave of absence for study at the University of Michigan during the second semester of the school year. Miss Helen Evans of Port Huron, a graduate of the University of Michigan Library School in 1936 is acting librarian in Miss Hammond's absence.

BECAUSE of the form of name adopted by the Metropolitan Library Club organized last year in Detroit the Association of High School Librarians at its annual meeting changed its appellation to High School Librarians' Association of Greater Detroit.

The new officers are:

President—Aniela Poray, Northeastern High School.

Secretary—Mrs. Faith Townsend Murdoch, Northwestern High School, Detroit.

Treasurer—Mrs. Edna Welcome Gardner, High School of Commerce, Detroit.

Special Committees were appointed for the study of Certification of Librarians, State Aid, Professional Development and Exchange Librarians in addition to the Standing Committees.

CONDON Intermediate School Library (Detroit) has as one of its attractions a Hobby Room. Comfortable chairs, a rug and a reading lamp make a pleasant setting for shelves displaying stamp books, books on model airplanes and travel booklets. Mrs. Ruth Keith, Librarian, plans the addition of a modernistic fireplace and bookshelves with the assistance of N. Y. A. helpers.

THE Library Staff of Mackenzie High School, Detroit, will soon issue a printed handbook outlining the duties and the code of ethics of the staff.

CLASSES at Northwestern High School are proving the usefulness of the New Library Laboratory. The Laboratory, of classroom size, is equipped with tablet arm chairs, shelving, black board and bulletin board. By advance notice to the Library, teachers will find at hand in the Laboratory books, pictures, clippings or any material available for use during the periods their classes wish to use it.

MISS ANIELA PORAY, Librarian, Northeastern High School, Detroit, is rejoicing in the newly enlarged and re-equipped library at that school, and in its most important new ornament, Miss Gertrude Mentilkowski, who has been transferred there from the Bishop School to assist her.

THE citizens of Kalamazoo are taking an active interest in a new building for their Public Library. The local branch of the A. A. U. W., with a "Friends of the Library," organization in mind, arranged inspection tours through the library for all of its members. The women were distressed at the crowded conditions of the library and the limited and unsuitable working space for both staff and patrons. During the week of February 8th, the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce held a clinic on "City Betterment" and in many of the discussion groups the need for a new library building was considered.

MR. H. A. CARPENTER of the University of Michigan Department of Library Science will address the students of Alma College on March 25 on the subject, "Library Work as a Vocation," especially emphasizing opportunities for men. Miss Ward, the college librarian, reports about fifty percent of her classes in Library Methods are men!

KALAMAZOO College has a new assistant librarian this year in the person of Miss Helen M. Bowie of Louisiana. Miss Bowie was graduated from Louisiana State University Library School in 1935.

MISS LUCILLE HARWICK who completed her library training at Western Reserve Library School in 1936, became librarian of the Lincoln Branch Library in Kalamazoo in August of last year.

Along The Exchange

Seven Rules of Public Speaking

SINCE librarians are famous for their inability to speak above a whisper perhaps this statement has its place in their personal program of Adult Education.

1. BE PREPARED. Don't worry. Work. Read, think, jot down ideas. Eliminate. Reorganize. Offer no apologies. For the sake of safety, carry with you small cards bearing a simple outline.
2. USE DETAIL. "Some people," "almost everyone," are characteristics of tiresome, ineffective speech. Such words and expressions give hazy, fuzzy mental pictures—if any. Tell definitely what you have on your mind. Don't speak in a general way.
3. PRACTICE. Nothing else will give ease, grace, and power. Imagine the spectacle of the basketball player who has never practiced or of the musician who has only thought over what he is going to play. Accept every invitation you are given to speak in public. You are fortunate when you have an audience bound by the rules of common courtesy to permit you to practice.
4. GET CRITICISM. Applause may testify either to the excellence of your speech or to the sympathy of your audience. Compliments may mean that those who give them really admire your speech or that they admire the speaker and court his good will. It is the cold-blooded critic who can help. Have a confederate stationed in the audience—a confederate whose only prejudices come from a desire to give you the truth. Such help is sometimes hard to find, and many a would-be speaker fails because of the lack of it.
5. TALK TO THE AUDIENCE—NOT AT IT. Memorized speeches and more particularly, those half memorized, encourage the common blunder of looking back into the mind for something needed. Have a glance

for each of numerous faces over the audience. There you will see expressions that will indicate your progress in getting the interest of your hearers. Remember that talking to a group is not greatly unlike talking to an individual.

6. BE PLEASANT. Your introduction should give you a favorable start. Hold that favor. Talk about things in which your hearers are interested. Avoid over-use of "I," or worse yet, "I think." Speak of things pleasant. When unpleasant ideas must be mentioned or referred to, express hope for the coming of something better. Make yourself a pleasure to look at, to listen to, and to believe.

(Reprinted from the BULLETIN of the School Library Association of California, Southern Section, March, 1936.)

Library Service To Children

(Continued from Page 12)

and arrangement of the room; (2) The number of students accommodated; (3) The handling of circulation; (4) The number of librarians in proportion to the student enrollment; (5) The activities carried on in the primary libraries; (6) The handling of class room libraries; (7) The reading guidance program.

Aside from the pleasure and honor of having Miss Van Cleve and Miss Batchelder in Detroit, was the inspiration gained by all who came to the discussions or had an opportunity of participating in any way in the program as planned for the week. The very sincerity of these two people, together with their ability to lead a discussion and their knowledge of nation-wide trends in library service to children and young people, proved a valuable experience to all who were privileged to meet them. LOIS T. PLACE

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Necrology

(Continued from Page 14)

tine, and Wilson Marcy Ranck, Miss Louisa P. Blackburn, her sister, and two grandchildren, Richard Wilding and James Ranck Hodgman.

MARY FLORENCE HOLMES

1869-1936

Mrs. MARY FLORENCE HOLMES, for many years a librarian at Northwestern High School, Detroit, died November 6th.

Mrs. Holmes was born in Boston, Massachusetts. A graduate of Thayer Academy, Quincy, Massachusetts and the Boston Normal School, she taught successfully in Boston, Boothbay Harbor, Maine and in Detroit at Western High School and Northwestern High School. She was an organizer and first president of the Hyannis, Massachusetts, Woman's Club. She was a member of the Redford Women's Club, the Detroit Colony of New England Women, The High School Librarians of Greater Detroit, and was Librarian of the Federation of Women's Clubs and chairman of its Program Exchange.

Her husband, Frederic H. Holmes, two sons, Frederic and John, and four grandchildren survive her.

Publicity Pointers

Publicity Pointers, issued by the School Library Publicity Committee of the American Library Association offers a cooperative Publicity scheme whose operation is conditional upon receiving 1000 advance subscriptions. The offering is: 12 posters a year designed by qualified artists; 12 issues of *Publicity Tips Monthly*, a clearing house for successful publicity ideas. Cost, \$6 a year.

The Committee suggests that small schools who feel they cannot afford the small cost, cooperate with others to share the expense and service.

Subscriptions to this new and valuable service may be sent to Publicity Division, American Library Association, 520 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

School Library Section M. L. A.

THE school library section meeting of the Michigan Library Association next fall will be held on Friday, according to a notice received from the president of the Michigan Library Association. School principals and superintendents are to be asked to allow their librarians time off with pay to attend the meeting.

Our Contributors

GRACE A. ENGLAND is the librarian of the Down-town Library, Detroit, and a member of the M. L. A. sub-committee on State Aid.

IONE M. DORITY, librarian of the Bureau of Government, University of Michigan, is a member of the Public Documents Committee of the A. L. A. and chairman of the Documents Committee of the Social Science Group of the Special Libraries Association. She is the compiler of *Civil Service in the States*. Bureau of Government, University of Michigan, New Series Bulletin No. 3, and author of "American City Charters" in *Public Documents*, published in 1936 by the American Library Association.

LOIS T. PLACE is the supervisor of Detroit school libraries and assistant professor of library science at Wayne University.

MARION R. SERVICE is chairman of the Public Relations Committee, Detroit Public Library.

JESSIE E. TOMPKINS, chairman of the Sub-committee on State Board for Libraries, is the chief of the Children's Department of the Detroit Public Library.

MALCOLM GLENN WYER, president of the American Library Association, has been the librarian of the Denver Public Library since 1924. He is also director of the library of the University of Denver and dean of the School of Librarianship in that university.

University of Michigan Offers Fellowships

THROUGH the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the University of Michigan will offer three fellowships in Library Science of \$1,000 each for the academic year 1937-38. Applications must be filed with Wm. W. Bishop, Librarian, on or before May 1, 1937. Applicants must meet the following requirements: (1) A Bachelor's degree from an approved college or university; (2) The completion of one year (at least 24 hours) at a Type I or Type II Library School; (3) A reading knowledge of French and German; (4) At least two recommendations vouching for the character, good health, and probable success of the candidate; (5) A personal interview with a member of the Department or with a designated representative; (6) A recent, unmounted photograph should accompany each application.

In addition, two scholarships of \$500 each will be offered to first-year full-time students in Library Science. Applications for these scholarships must also be filed with the Librarian, Wm. W. Bishop, on or before May 1, 1937. The requirements for these scholarships are as follows: (1) A Bachelor's degree from an approved college or university with a scholarship record of at least one and three-fourths as many points as hours; (2) A reading knowledge of French and German; (3) Two recommendations from personal acquaintances who can vouch for the character and good health of the candidate; (4) A personal interview with a member of the Department or with a designated representative; (5) A recent, unmounted photograph should accompany each application.

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